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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Vsetin Works, which had the numerical designation 03, was a part of the Brno (Bruenn) Armament Works, nationalized enterprise (Zbrojovka Brno, n.p.), which in turn was under the Czechoslovak Metal and Engineering Works, nationalized enterprise. (Cs. Závody kovodélné a strojírenské, n.p.) (1) The Vsetin Works, managed by Engineer Chrast, employed about 5,000 in two shifts running from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. The second shift was worked only in some sections. (2)

2. The installations of the Vsetin armament plant were in comparatively good condition. The only war damage suffered by the plant was the destruction of the transformer stations, which was carried out by the Germans when they left the plant. In addition, the Soviets seized about 500 machine tools. (3) However, the transformer stations were repaired soon after the war, and in 1949 the plant received new automatic machines and precision machine tools, the plant's mechanical equipment was such that the plant could start full war production without delay. Each section of the plant had its own transformer, and every machine had its own power unit. Current was supplied to the plant through a transformer station located on the outskirts of the town of Vsetin.

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3. The Vsetin plant's factory number 7 kept all the machines of the Vsetin plant in repair and also did some repair work for the Dohuslavice Works. In addition, factory number 7 manufactured components for Loom T 50, metal pantographs, and type ZB 150 and type ZB 60 hydraulic presses, which were also used for bakelite presses. Of the ammunition machines (sic) manufactured by this shop, heard mention made of designations AJ and HM-5. The factory made parts according to drawings bearing the military designation "CP". In December 1949, worked on the production of boring machines for barrels with this CP designation and with a bore of 45 mm and with a groove depth of 0.03 mm. A thousand of them were to be completed by 15 January 1950. Factories 7 and 8 of the Vsetin plant produced parts for the heavy machine gun of type "TK, model 37".

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This gun was assembled in factory 73, which also assembled the parts manufactured in factory 7 for the small automatic loom of type "Tas-Z-Hradina".

4. The production of automatic looms was reduced from 200 to 100 per month in the spring of 1949, while the manufacture of machine gun parts was increased proportionally. the Vsetin works was to produce only weapons and ammunition in the future, and all other production was to be transferred to other plants. (5)

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5. The Vsetin plant produced most of its own semi-finished goods, but some of the castings arrived by rail, presumably from the main plant in Brno. The manufacture of the textile machines was frequently interrupted because of the scarcity of material. The Vsetin plant had a short supply of Widia-steel, which was used for the manufacture of tools.

6. The plant delivered some of its products to the Czechoslovakian Army. These military deliveries were checked by five officers who are permanently assigned to the plant. The "Tas-Z-Hrdina" type looms produced by the plant were designed for domestic use. The pantographs and presses were packed in boxes with inscriptions in Russian. Machines designed for Yugoslavia were held back after the suspension of commercial relations with Yugoslavia, but the manufacture of these machines was continued.

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Comments.

(1) As a result of the reorganization of the Czech industry, in force since 1 January 1950, the Bruenn-Ordnance Works was split up into the following independent nationalized plants:

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1. "Zbrojovka Brno, n.p." with its main plant in Bruenn
2. "Zavody presneho strojirenstvi Lisen, n.p."
3. "Zavody presneho strojirenstvi Vsetin, n.p."
4. "Zavody presneho strojirenstvi Vlasim, n.p."
5. "Zavody presneho strojirenstvi Uhersky Brod, n.p."
6. "Moto-Java, n.p." (Prague/Nusle)
7. "Velo-Stadion, n.p." Rakovnik.

Plants 1 through 5 are organized in the newly established "Precision Machine Building" sector while the plants 6 and 7 belong to the "Motor Vehicles and Aircraft" sector.

(2) This work time seems more probable than the three shifts As may be inferred the prevailing shortage of labor has prevented work in three or even two shifts.

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(3) The seizure by the Soviets of 500 machine tools was on the main plant in Brno, where the Soviets dismantled and evacuated 500 special machine tools in the summer of 1947. These machines had been installed in the plant by the Germans.

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(5) The statements on a transfer of non-military production to other plants have so far been nothing but rumors.

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